

REMARKS

The rejection of claims 1 - 4 and 11 - 15 under 35 USC 103 over Curtis and the rejection of claims 5 - 10 over Curtis and Chan are respectfully traversed as being moot in view of the amendments.

With respect to claim 2 and 3, Applicants disagree with the examiner's position expressed on page 2 of the action that "The certificate represents the program specific id because it performs the role of an identifier to the server."

Applicants point out that the claims, as amended, require that the identifier is specific to a program - i.e. not to a machine.

In contrast, the certificates of Curtis are specific to a machine. The cited passage on col 3, lines 35-36 refers to "installed certificates" that refers back to Col 3, line 27 "server certificates", i.e. some sort of identification of the machine that transmits the message.

In Curtis, there is therefore the possibility that a malicious program has infected the machine.

According to the present claims, this possibility is avoided because the identification of the program transmitting the request prevents malicious programs from passing on damaging requests.

With respect to claims 5 - 10, Applicants have modified claim 7 to clarify another aspect of the invention - that of a dynamic system that increases the number of trusted programs without the need for a system administrator to be administering the user's system.

As amended, claim 7 calls for a method in which a new (additional) program attempts to place a request with the message-responding program, but is not known to it. In a conventional system, an administrator would have to approve the addition of the new program to the list of trusted programs.


According to claim 7, the helper program verifies that the new program is trustworthy and passes on the identification to the responding program, without human involvement.

Support is provided on pages 17 - 20.

Claims 16 - 19 point out with more detail this aspect on the invention.

For the foregoing reasons, allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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